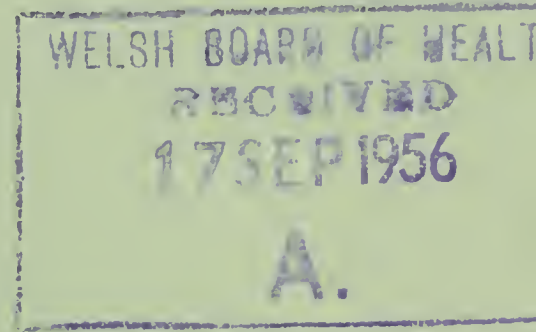


URBAN DISTRICT OF RHYMNEY



ANNUAL REPORT



OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH & SANITARY
INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR

1955



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Rhymney Urban District Council.



*With the compliments of the
Medical Officer of Health.*

URBAN DISTRICT OF RHYMNEY

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OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF
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INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR

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RHYMNEY

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman (1955) . . . Councillor Roger Williams, J.P.

Vice-Chairman (1955) . . . Councillor R. I. Doyle

Clerk & Accountant to the Council - H. H. Roberts Esq., A.C.I.S.
(Died 17th Sept., 1955).

Clerk & Accountant to the Council (Appointed 16.11.55) -
R. K. Lacey Esq., A.I.M.T.A., D.P.A.

Members :

Upper Ward :

Councillor P. E. Jones
Councillor R. I. Doyle
Councillor J. R. Price
Councillor E. J. Davies

Middle Ward :

Councillor Norman Gilbert
Councillor D. Thomas
Councillor K. Wilkins

Lower Ward :

Councillor J. J. Williams
(Died 19.3.56)
Councillor D. A. Moseley
Councillor W. H. Barter

Abertysswg Ward :

Alderman W. J. Greene, J.P.
Councillor Roger Williams, J.P.
Councillor J. Brewer

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority
and Particulars of Duties (as requested in Circular 1/54 Wales).

Medical Officer of Health :

Dr. M. J. DONELAN, M.B., B.CH., D.P.H.

Usual duties of a Medical Officer in an Urban District.

Sanitary Inspector etc. - Whole Time :

G. R. DAVIES, M.R.S.H., M.S.I.A.

Certified Sanitary Inspector, and Certified Inspector of Meat
and other Foods, The Royal Sanitary Institute.

Sanitary Inspector ; Inspector of Meat and other Foods ; Public
Cleansing Officer ; Shops Acts Inspector ; Rodent Officer
Petroleum Officer.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Rhymney Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Members,

We beg to submit the Annual Report on the vital statistics and Sanitary conditions of your district for the year 1955. This has been prepared as indicated in Circular 28/54 (Wales), dated 15th December, 1954, and Circular 17/55 (Wales) dated 23.11.55 issued by the Welsh Board of Health.

Statistics and Social Conditions in the Area.

The District is situated at the top of the Rhymney Valley, in the north west corner of Monmouthshire, a small portion of the upper end being in the southern extremity of the County of Breconshire. On the west it is separated from Glamorgan and the Urban District of Gellygaer by the River Rhymney; on the east by the Tysswg Brook and the Urban District of Tredegar; on the north by Breconshire, and on the south by the Urban District of Bedwellty. It covers an area of 2,648 acres. For all administrative purposes, the whole area is included in the County of Monmouthshire.

Coalmining is the chief industry, and many of the workmen are employed in the collieries situated outside the Urban area. There are no pit-head baths for the workmen employed at McLaren Colliery, Abertysswg. All other Collieries that were in the area are closed.

Over the years the Council have from time to time expressed their concern over the need for alternative light employment for men who have had to give up colliery work through industrial disease or injury.

Clothing Factory. As is usual in this type of factory, it is female labour that is chiefly employed. Prior to 1948 there was no factory employment (except a little at Rhymney Brewery) available for females in the area.

Rhymney Engineering Works. Although the only means of road transport to and from this factory is through our district, it is actually situated in the Urban District of Gellygaer.

Population at Census, 1921	11,690
Population at Census, 1931	10,506
Population at Census, 1951	9,134

Estimated Resident Population supplied Yearly by the Registrar
General over the last 22 years.

1934	...	...	10,280	1945	...	...	8,762
1935	...	...	10,050	1946	...	...	8,773
1936	...	...	9,900	1947	...	...	8,694
1937	...	...	9,576	1948	...	...	9,058
1938	...	...	9,437	1949	...	...	9,137
1939	...	...	9,260	1950	...	...	9,070
1940	...	...	9,625	1951	...	...	9,049
1941	...	...	9,814	1952	...	...	9,006
1942	...	...	9,233	1953	...	...	8,980
1943	...	...	9,101	1954	...	...	8,920
1944	...	...	8,881	1955	...	...	8,856

The Statistics for 1955 are based upon the estimated resident population of 8,850 as supplied by the Registrar General.

Area of the District in Acres	2,647.94
Rateable Value (31st March, 1955)	£30,862
Penny Rate Product (31st March, 1955) ...	£109/8/3

Live Births.

Total Males Females				
Legitimate	114	50	64	Birth-rate per 1,000 of
Illegitimate	6	5	1	the population
				13.5

Out of the total of 120 births, 57 of the births took place in hospitals or outside the area.

Still Births.

Total Male Female				
Illegitimate	—	—	—	Rate per 1,000 total live
Legitimate	2	—	2	and still-births
				16.39

The Still-Birth Rate for England and Wales per 1,000 total live and still-births is 23.1.

The Still-Birth rate per 1,000 of the population is 0.22 and for Monmouthshire 0.51.

Deaths.

Death Rate per 1,000 of		Total Male Females		
the Population	12.76	113	72	41

Number of women dying in the consequence of childbirth:
Nil.

The Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live and still-births is Nil and for the County 0.98.

Deaths under 1 year of age.

Sex	Age	Cause of Death
Male	Five Months	Spina Bifida
Male	Three Days	Prematurity
Male	Minutes	Prematurity
Male	Minutes	Prematurity
Male	Three Weeks	Heart Disease
Female	Two Hours	Asphyxia Pallida

Death Rate for Infants under one year of age per 1,000 live-births 50.0.

There were 6 deaths under one year of age. (5 legitimate and 1 illegitimate births).

Statistics for England and Wales, etc., 1955.

	Death Rate (all causes)	Live Birth Rate per 1,000 total Population	Total Deaths under 1 year (Rate per 1,000 Live Births)
England and Wales ...	11.7	15.0	24.9
Monmouthshire ...	12.40	15.29	33.96
Rhymney ...	12.76	13.5	50.0
Blaenavon ...	16.8	10.9	57.7

The death rate at all ages is 1.06 more than that for England and Wales, and 0.36 more than that for the County. Deaths under 1 year of age are 25.1 more than the rate for England and Wales and 16.04 more than the County Rate. The birth rate is 1.5 less than that for England and Wales, and 1.79 under that of the County.

For the year 1954, the Death Rate (all ages) was 11.65 ; the Birth Rate 14.6, and the Infantile Death Rate 38.2.

Table of Births and Deaths for the past 21 years
and comparison with Rates for England and Wales.

Year	GENERAL DEATH RATE		INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE		BIRTH RATE	
	Rhydney	England & Wales	Rhydney	England & Wales	Rhydney	England & Wales
1935	14.12	11.7	74.0	57.0	16.11	14.7
1936	12.7	12.1	51.6	59.0	17.5	14.8
1937	13.5	12.4	110.3	58.0	15.2	14.9
1938	13.3	11.6	27.9	53.0	18.96	15.1
1939	14.02	12.1	27.02	50.0	15.3	15.0
1940	13.7	14.3	51.7	55.0	17.5	14.6
1941	12.9	12.9	43.2	59.0	15.18	14.2
1942	14.18	11.6	91.8	49.0	20.04	15.8
1943	11.09	12.1	80.16	49.0	21.53	16.5
1944	12.9	11.6	78.53	46.0	21.5	17.6
1945	11.9	11.4	76.9	46.0	16.3	16.1
1946	13.5	11.5	78.3	43.0	18.9	19.1
1947	11.3	12.0	44.2	41.0	20.8	20.5
1948	12.6	10.8	64.8	34.0	20.4	17.9
1949	14.3	11.7	50.0	32.0	17.5	16.7
1950	12.5	11.6	66.6	29.8	19.8	15.8
1951	14.6	12.5	73.5	29.6	15.02	15.5
1952	11.8	11.3	8.06	27.6	13.7	15.3
1953	11.58	11.4	27.7	26.8	16.03	15.5
1954	11.65	12.04	38.2	47.2	14.6	16.9
1955	12.76	11.7	50.0	24.9	13.5	15.0

Deaths from Measles (all ages) 0

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... 0

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 18

Deaths from Heart Diseases 44

Particulars of unusual or excessive mortality
during the year None

HOSPITALS. The National Health Service, Act 1946, lays on the Minister of Health the duty of providing hospital and specialist services.

The Minister discharges this duty principally through Regional Hospital Boards, acting as his agents. For the control and management (i.e. for the whole business of day to day administration) of groups of hospitals, Hospital Management Committees in turn act as agents of the Regional Board.

The Rhydney and Sirhowy Valleys Hospital Management Committee is responsible for the control and management of hospitals, chest clinics, etc., in the area.

Admission of Patients to Hospital.

GENERAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL CONDITIONS. The Family doctor (1) arranges admission of the acute emergency direct with the hospital, and (2) refers the non-urgent case to be seen as an out-patient. If considered necessary, hospitals outside the group can also be used by arrangement, as in the NEW SERVICE, there are no territorial boundaries.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES. Arrangements for admission are made through the Local Authority Health Department as considered necessary.

MATERNITY. Cases are admitted by direct arrangements between the Ante-Natal Clinic Doctor and the County Infirmary.

TUBERCULOSIS. Reference by the family doctor of patients to the Chest Specialists in attendance at the Chest Clinics for opinion, investigation, or treatment, continues as in the past. Admissions to Sanatoria or Hospital are arranged through the Tuberculosis Division of the Welsh Regional Board on direct recommendation of the Chest Physician.

The Monmouthshire County Council Scheme for the prevention of tuberculosis is working very well. All contacts are X-rayed and cases followed-up by the Medical Officer of Health working in close conjunction with the Chest Physician.

SPECIALIST SERVICE ON THE HOME. The family doctor seeks a specialist for domicilliary service only if the patient is too ill to attend the hospital.

AMBULANCE SERVICE. In this area, the Mon. County Council are statutorily responsible for the provision of an adequate service of ambulances and transport for all National Health purposes, including the transport of patients to and from hospital, and inter-hospital transfers.

CONVALESCENT TREATMENT. For the purposes of the National Health Service Act, Convalescence can be divided into two classes. Firstly, there is convalescence which is a continuation and an integral part of hospital treatment, i.e., medical and nursing care is essential; this type of convalescence is the responsibility of the Hospital Management Committee.

Secondly, there is convalescence where medical and nursing care is **not** required and where the patient only needs a rest holiday in suitable surroundings; the Hospital Management Committee is not empowered to provide this type of convalescence, but it is provided by the Local Health Authority (Mon. C.C. for this area) under Section 28 of the National Health Act.

SPA TREATMENT. This form of treatment will be provided on prescription by the patient's doctor, supplemented by specialist recommendation. The procedure requires the hospital matron to arrange for out-patient specialist examination on production by the patient of a medical certificate suggesting Spa treatment. Admission is then arranged (via the Hospital Management Committee) by the Regional Hospital Board to Spa Centres, which at the moment are outside the Welsh Region.

SUPPLIES OF DIPHTHERIA ANTI-TOXIN. Hospitals for infectious diseases hold stocks of diphtheria anti-toxin and are prepared to supply it to doctors on demand, for emergency use. As these hospitals are not readily accessible, small stocks are also held (for this area) at the Redwood Memorial Hospital.

SUPPLY OF VACCINES, SERA, ETC. Stocks of vaccine, lymph and diphtheria prophylactic are being held at laboratories of the Public Health Laboratory Service for issue **free** of charge to the Medical Officer of Health, or to practitioners taking part in Local Health Authorities' arrangements under Section 26 of the National Health Service Act.

Certain other materials of this kind, not readily obtainable at present from trade sources, will also be available through the Public Health Laboratory Service, e.g. measles serum, typhus vaccine, rabies vaccine, botulinum antitoxin, anti-anthrax serum and anti-snake venom.

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION. The Central Administration Offices of the Hospital Management Committee are based at Caerphilly District Miners' Hospital, St. Martin's Road, Caerphilly.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER SUPPLY. The conditions remain the same as at the end of last year, the supply is ample and of good quality. The Rhymney Urban District Council is a contributory authority to the Rhymney Valley Water Board, with representation thereon. Forty-six houses at Princetown and Rhymney Bridge are supplied by the Tredegar Urban District Council.

Source A. Gathering ground at Blaen Rhymney; this empties into (1) Old Reservoir, 12,000,000 gallons, (2) New Reservoir, 44,000,000 gallons; the property of the Rhymney Valley Water Board.

Source B. From the Upper Neuadd Reservoir the property of the Taff Fechan Supply Board. Capacity, 350,000,000 gallons.

Springs (2 outlying farmhouses, and 11 isolated cottages). On the whole, these have been fairly successful throughout the year.

Reports on Water Samples, etc.

	Number un- satisfactory	Number un- satisfactory
1. (a) Bacteriological examination of raw water	38	10
.(b) Bacteriological examination of treat- ed water	45	2
(c) Chemical Analyses	None	None
2 (a) Plumbo Solvent Action	None	
(b) Details of contamination by lead, precautions taken, and number and results of analyses	No Plumbo solvency	
3. (a) Number of houses supplied from public water mains:		
(i) Direct to houses		2632
(ii) By means of stand-pipes		20
(b) Approximate population supplied from public water mains:		
(i) Direct to houses		8764
(ii) By means of stand-pipes		70
4. Action in respect of any form of contamination	Increased Chlorination	
Adequate chlorination is maintained at all times.		

DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL. With the exception of minor improvement and clearing of block-ages, the sewers have, on the whole, worked satisfactorily throughout the year. The Rhymney Urban District Council is a contributory authority to the Rhymney Valley Sewerage Board, with representatives thereon.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION. With the exception of out-lying houses and isolated farmhouses, the whole district is served by the water carriage system. A scheme was prepared during 1939 for the laying of a sewer at Princetown and Rhymney Bridge (50 houses) and for the conversion of the privies and pail closets to water-closets, but owing to the outbreak of war, an enquiry arranged by the Ministry had to be abandoned. During the year the Council again gave consideration to this matter.

PUBLIC LAVATORIES, ETC. There is one centrally situated convenience for the use of persons of both sexes. The only other provision throughout the district for the public are obsolete urinals.

The Council are anxious to replace obsolete urinals in the near future, but their efforts are meeting with no public response, as weekly the destruction and vandalism of the centrally situated convenience continues. It will take some little time before our public are educated to respect their own properties.

COLLECTION OF HOUSE REFUSE AND STREET CLEANSING. This service is carried out by direct labour, and under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. The District Council are also responsible for the cleansing of Trunk, Class 1 and Class 2 Roads, and for the surface water gullies on these roads. Disposal of refuse takes place upon open tips, and collections are made from all premises three times a week. Receptacles for refuse, in many instances, are unsatisfactory. This work is made more onerous by the menace of sheep and horses tipping over receptacles and this must add to the cost of the service. The Council have discussed the advisability of pounding these animals, but no finality has been reached on the matter. This is one of our urgent problems at the moment.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, SHOPS AND OFFICES. Sanitary conveniences have been provided in all cases where necessary. Attention is also given to Section 10 (1) (b) (Temperature).

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 — Rats and Mice.

The method used, and which have proved to be most successful, are those advocated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, who make a grant to the Council of 50 per cent of the cost of a large part of the work. The whole sewerage system of the district was treated twice during the year. New sewers laid to serve new houses were found to be free from rats. Treatments were also carried out at dwelling-houses, business premises, refuse tips and river banks, etc.

The work carried out under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector who is helped by a Rodent Operator, and for sewer treatments three temporary men are engaged every six months.

Co-operation and advice given by Mr. R. Davies, Divisional Rodent Officer, and also by the Divisional Rodent Inspector, is appreciated.

Housing.

As stated in previous reports, the most important matter facing the Council is "Housing". During August 1955, it was agreed that between 260 and 270 houses should be scheduled for demolition, and that Clearance Orders, etc. would be made at such times as the Council would have new houses available for displaced families.

There are many other substandard dwellings in the area that could have many years of useful life if works of improvement were carried out on them.

At the time of writing this report, the only "Improvements Grants" applied for, have been made by owner - occupiers.

A large amount of repair work was again carried out during 1955, but as stated on previous occasions this can only be termed "First Aid" repairs. The work, in many instances is only carried out when pressure is brought upon the owners to do so.

In some instances, it was necessary to apply for "Court Orders" owing to non-compliance with statutory Notices.

Post War New Housing.

1947	...	50 Aluminium Bungalows tenanted.
1948	...	52 Steel Houses tenanted.
1949	...	30 Traditional Type Houses tenanted.
1950	...	45 Traditional Type Houses tenanted.
1951	...	5 Traditional Type Houses tenanted.
1952	...	Nil.
1953	...	30 Traditional Type Houses tenanted.
1954	...	10 Traditional Type Houses tenanted.
1954	...	66 Wates Type Houses tenanted.
1955	...	58 Wates Type Houses tenanted.
1955	...	2 Traditional Type Houses tenanted.

Total (Post War) 348 new dwellings erected and occupied.

Before the outbreak of war (1939) the Council owned 90 houses. Total number of houses owned by the Council at end of 1955 is 438. (Cemetery House not included).

Garden City Site. Work upon roads, sewers etc. was started during 1955, and during 1956 the work of erecting 78 Wates Type Houses will commence.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS. 9 private houses were found to be infested, and the whole premises treated.

The methods adopted are :

(1) Cimex Patent Block Disinfestators, and then spraying with insecticide.

(2) Removal of skirting boards, etc., and using blow-lamp. The work of disinfestation is carried out by the Local Authority.

Insecticides are also given (free) to tenants.

The undermentioned insecticides and fumigants are used :

Zaldecide, Cimex, Solution "B", Cooper's Bed Bug Spray, Killercide, etc.

Twenty houses infested with either ants, crickets, beetles or wood beetles were also treated.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

(91 Intimation Notices or Letters and 74 Statutory Notices were served).

Nuisances Detected or Repairs Required

	Total
1. Defective and Chocked W.C. Drains	12
2. Provide or Rebuild W.C. or Privy Accommodation ...	2
3. To open and repair slop drains	2
4. To drain, flush, cleanse or repair urinals	2
5. To provide or repair cisterns in W.C.s	4
6. To pave and repair back-yard or forecourt	2
7. Throwing of house refuse, etc. ... Circular letter distributed	
8. To cleanse cesspools	0
9. To cleanse dwelling-houses and bedding	0
10. To provide and repair rainwater troughing and downspouts	24
11. To repair drain vent or soil pipes	0
12. To limewash pig or chicken cot (or remove)	2
13. To prevent overcrowding	0
14. To prevent pollution of streams, rivers, or ponds	2
15. To repair defective house roofs causing dampness ...	41
16. To provide sinks in houses	0
17. To provide or repair coal buildings	3
18. To cleanse water courses	2
19. To repair W.C. walls, roofs, doors and floors	11
20. To provide new W.C. pans	5
21. To provide new oven	0
22. To repair privies or provide new pails	0
23. To provide or repair pantries	6
24. To repair fireplaces	7
25. To repair or take down dangerous chimney stacks and rebuild	11
26. To plaster walls	4
27. To rebuild boundary or retaining walls	2
28. To repair house floors	5
29. To repair broken ceilings	8
30. To provide slop drains	0
31. Defective conditions of main walls	15
32. Defective conditions of house doors or windows	44
33. Other nuisances	21

No new houses erected during the year by private enterprise. County planning was responsible by no mean degree for this tragic occurrence. The County Council Planning Department are apparently not sympathetic to private enterprise in the town, consequently our citizens must build across the boundary in the Gelligaer Urban District where they are received with open arms. If this restrictive practice is continued, it may mean strangulation of the cultural sociological and economic activities of our town.

RENT AND MORTGAGE INTEREST RESTRICTION ACTS, 1920-1939. There were no applications for certificates during the year.

HOUSING REPAIRS (Increase of Rent) REGULATIONS 1954. There were no applications during the year for "Certificates of Disrepair".

PROSECUTIONS INSTITUTED DURING THE YEAR: 15. SECTIONS 92-94 PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936. Fourteen Summonses were issued against owners for non-compliance with Statutory Notices requesting repairs, etc., to dwelling houses, and in every case, in view of owners stating that they would carry out the work requested during three months, the hearing of the Summonses were adjourned for that period.

SECTION 11, HOUSING ACT 1936. (Individual Unfit House). One summons was issued, and the application for an eviction warrant was granted.

Inspection and Supervision of Foods.

MILK.

There are 15 retail distributors of milk in the area, and they receive their supplies of pasteurised, T.T. pasteurised and sterilised milk in sealed bottles for delivery to consumers. Empty bottles are returned to the wholesale suppliers' factories for washing and sterilization, etc. This method does away with the operation of bottle washing, storing, filling and sealing in numerous small buildings, where satisfactory hygiene would be difficult to attain, and in some cases, impossible. During the year 86 samples were submitted for examination to the Public Health Laboratory. Four of the samples failed to pass the phosphatase test, and nine failed to pass the methylene blue test. This matter was taken up with the two wholesale suppliers concerned, and also with the Chief Sanitary Inspectors of the areas where the pasteurisation plants are situated.

MEAT CONDEMNED DURING THE YEAR. $7\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. ham; 1 pigs head and tongue.

NUMBER OF ANIMALS KILLED by farmers, cottagers, etc., during the year : Pigs 7. Tuberculosis or any other disease was not detected. One pig's head (at a butcher's shop) was found with an abscess.

The two small local slaughterhouses have not been licensed since 1939, and no application for a license has been received. Since the Ministry's control of slaughtering came to an end in July 1954, the meat consumed in this area is mostly received from Brynmawr Slaughterhouse.

PUBLIC HEALTH MEAT REGULATIONS, 1924. These Regulations have been carried out in a satisfactory manner on the whole.

ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT, ETC.) REGULATIONS, 1947, AND SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938. There are sixteen retailers in the area, and six of these are retailer-producers. One of them is also a wholesaler.

37 samples were submitted for examination during the year, and 24 were graded 1; 7 were graded 2; and 5 graded 3, and 1 graded 4.

FISH FRYING AND CHIP POTATO SHOPS, ETC. Visits were made and attention given to all appliances used in connection with this trade, respecting cleanliness, etc.

BAKEHOUSES. Limewashing and general cleanliness receives attention.

OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED. 104 tins fruit; 21 tins meat; 5 tins vegetables; 2 tins soup; 3 tins milk; 1 tin pudding; 44 lbs. cheese.

SHOPS, STORES. There has been no cause for complaint as to the the protection of meat from contamination. All butcher shops have refrigerators. The importance of personal cleanliness, also the cleanliness of premises, equipment and utensils, was impressed upon food-handlers and leaflets issued.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks.

- | | | |
|-----|--|------|
| (a) | Total number of outbreaks | None |
| (b) | Number of cases | None |
| (c) | Number of deaths | None |
| (d) | Organisms or other agents responsible,
with number of outbreaks attributable to
each | None |
| (e) | Foods involved, with number of outbreaks
associated with each food | None |

Bye-laws under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

These came into operation on 26th April, 1954.

The Public Health (Infectious Disease) Regulations 1953.

To control Food Poisoning the Council have given the Medical Officer of Health power authorising immediate issuing of NOTICES in an emergency, to prevent sufferers or "carriers" of infectious diseases working in food trades.

Prevalence and Control over Infections and other Diseases.

1955—167 Cases (Pulmonary Tuberculosis 6; Other Tuberculosis 4; Measles 146; Acute Poliomyelitis 1; Erysipelas 1; Whooping Cough 9).

1954—24 Cases (Pulmonary Tuberculosis 8; Whooping Cough 12; Scarlet Fever 1; Puerperal Pyrexia 3).

1953—258 Cases (226 Measles; 4 Puerperal Pyrexia; 1 Acute Primary Pneumonia; 3 Scarlet Fever; 1 Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis; 7 Pulmonary Tuberculosis; 3 Poliomyelitis; 3 Whooping Cough).

1952—19 Cases (Pulmonary Tuberculosis 6; Whooping Cough 3; Paratyphoid 6; Measles 2; Puerperal Pyrexia 2).

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH WARD

Upper Ward	70 Cases
Middle Ward	33 Cases
Lower Ward	62 Cases
Abertysswg Ward	2 Cases

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Small Pox	Nil	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever.....	Nil	Nil	Nil
Diphtheria	Nil	Nil	Nil
Enteric Fever (inc. Paratyphoid	Nil	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	Nil	Nil	Nil
Acute Pneumonia (Primary or Influenzal)	Nil	Nil	3
Other diseases generally notifiable (specify disease).			
Cerebro Spinal Fever	Nil	Nil	Nil
Erysipelas	1	Nil	Nil
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Nil	Nil	Nil
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	1	Nil
Dysentery	Nil	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough	9	Nil	Nil
Measles	146	Nil	Nil
Other diseases notifiable locally (specify diseases).....	Nil	Nil	Nil

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES. The absence of Puerperal Pyrexia speaks very highly for the Monmouthshire County Council domiciliary Midwifery Services and for the hospital service provided by the Regional Hospital Board. The absence of any specific fevers in the locality speaks highly for the public health services generally.

The number of measles cases notified with no hospital admission and no report of deaths strikes one forcibly, it does prove the efficiency of modern therapeutic drugs.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Cases					
Notified	Treated		Vision Un-	Vision	Total
	At	In Hos-	impaired	Impaired	Blindness
	Home	pital			
Deaths					
Nil					

Small pox—No Case. Erysipelas—One Case.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Deaths from Tuberculosis of the respiratory system 1; death rate per 1000 living, 0.11; deaths from other forms of Tubercular Diseases 2; death rate per 1000 living, 0.22; death rate from all forms of Tuberculosis, 0.33. Last year the death rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis was 0.33; from other Tubercular Diseases Nil; and from all forms of Tuberculosis. 0.33.

New Cases and Mortality during 1855.

The following table shows the age and sex distribution of the notified cases and of the deaths :—

Age Periods	NEW CASES—10				DEATHS—3			
	Respiratory		Non-		Respiratory		Non-	
	6		4		1		2	
	3 M	3 F	2 M	2 F	1 M	0 F	2 M	0 F
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
35	—	1	—	2	1	—	—	—
45	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
55	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	3	3	2	2	1	—	2	—

There was one death from Respiratory Tuberculosis and deaths from the non-pulmonary type. One of the deaths had not been notified (non-pul.). Two were associated with pneumoconiosis, and post mortems were carried out and inquests held.

Patients from the district are admitted to the following Institutions :

1. Glan Ely Hospital, near Cardiff.
2. North Wales Sanatorium, Denbigh.
3. Cefn Mabley Hospital, near Cardiff.
4. Mardy Hospital, Merthyr Tydfil.
5. Gellygaer Hospital.
6. South Wales Sanatorium, Talgarth.
7. Energlyn Hospital, Caerphilly.
8. Annexe, Chepstow.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, SECTION 172.

Section 172. This Section which enforces the compulsory removal of a patient suffering from Tuberculosis and in an infectious state to a hospital when there is no proper accommodation at the house, was not made use of.

Tuberculosis 10 new cases (6 pulmonary and 4 other forms) were notified during the year 1955).

As stated earlier in this report, the family doctor sends patients to Chest Specialists in attendance at the Chest Clinics, for opinion, investigation or treatment. When considered necessary, the Chest Physician also recommends admission to Sanatoria or Hospital. For details of Monmouthshire County Council arrangements, etc., please see County Medical Officer's Annual Report.

During May 1950 and July 1952 the Mass Radiography Service visited Rhymney and was available to the general population. It is hoped that it will be possible for a return visit to be made in the near future.

Diphtheria. The need of immunisation was advertised by the Monmouthshire County Council.

No case was notified during the year, and no deaths.

Enteric Fever. No. case notified, and no deaths.

Poliomyelitis. One case notified. No deaths.

Para-typhoid. No cases notified and no deaths.

Pneumonia (acute-influenzal and acute primary) no case notified.

There was three deaths from Pneumonia.

Encephalitis Lethargia. No case notified, and no deaths.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum. No case notified, and no deaths.

Dysentery. No case notified.

Influenza. No deaths.

Bronchitis. Three deaths.

There is no steam disinfectors in the district, and no facilities for dealing with verminous persons and their belongings. It is hoped that it will be possible in the near future for these services to be provided.

In conclusion, we again wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for the interest shown and support given in Public Health, etc., matters, and to express our appreciation to the Council Staff for their co-operation throughout the year.

We remain, Mr. Chairman and Members,

Yours faithfully,

M. J. DONELAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

G. R. DAVIES,

Sanitary Inspector, etc.

23rd May, 1956.





Prole and Son, Bethcar Street, Ebbw Vale.